



Finger Lakes National Forest, Hector, New York

Forest Happenings!!

Caring for the Land and Serving People

Winter Forest Happenings

What is the point of four seasons? we could all do better without freezing winter" "Ah yes but spring is for our health to clear our senses, and get us ready for heat, summer is to blast the earth with life, fall is to bring bright colors into average life and yet winter heals the planet so it can all happen again" - Author Unknown

Early December marked the last day that our seasonal employee, Sarah would be working on the Forest. She did so many great things this past summer, that I asked her to share some of what she did for this newsletter. Enjoy – Jodie

A Seasonals Summer...



This past season, I worked predominantly on forest health issues on the Finger Lakes National Forest. Currently, the Forest is threatened by Emerald Ash Borer, Hemlock Wooley Adelgid, Thousand Cankers Disease, Syrex Wood Wasp, and Butternut

Canker, and already suffers from diseases like Chestnut Blight, Beech Bark Disease, and Dutch Elm Disease. To help mitigate the impact of invasive forest pests, I worked on the Finger Lakes Invasive Pest Strategy (FLIPS), which is a comprehensive strategy that targets high risk and valuable forest areas for management activities. As part of FLIPS, I surveyed tree species compositions around campgrounds to help researchers help determine likelihood of infestation. I also helped establish, monitor, and remove trap trees to monitor for Emerald Ash Borer and I collected Ash seed as part of an effort to create a repository for the genetic diversity of Ash.

The most promising development to come from FLIPS is the desire to create a Butternut Seed Orchard; creation of the Butternut Seed Orchard will help us to reestablish canker resistant Butternuts on the Finger Lakes.



As part of my work with State and Private Forestry, I had the opportunity to collaborate with land owners throughout New York State to help them quantify the

effect of specific forest threats on their land and to study the efficacy of different insect trap methods.

My projects included working with Motezuma National Wildlife Refuge, Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (DEC), and Beaver Meadow State Forest (DEC) under the guidance of Tom Rawinsky to monitor the effect of deer browse on vegetation and forest regeneration. I also spent four weeks in Kingston helping Nate Siegert and NYS DEC with their effort to indentify the extent of their Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation. I also had the opportunity to collect specimens from a variety of trap designs in the Arnot Forest for a study by Kevin Dodds to assess the efficacy of different trap designs.

Over the course of the past months, I have participated in the whole spectrum of activities that occur on the forest. From stocking fish for the Youth Fishing Derby to monitoring bat activity, creating informational displays and brochures, doing timber stand improvement, and creating maps.

I really got a feel for the multitude of responsibilities the permanent staff is tasked with accomplishing and the hard work that they put in everyday. I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to work with so many dedicated, talented, and inspiring people and to have been able to experience the many moods and seasons of the forest. – Sarah

Wildlife

Finger Lakes National Forest Happenings!!

With the change of season comes shorter, colder, often snowy days, which tends to bring our field season to a slower pace.

This winter we are planning on going in to our *Early Successional Aspen Stand Enhancement Project* site and doing some additional cutting. Once this work is completed it should reveal a young aspen stand (0-9 years old) that is somewhat uncommon here on the FLNF. Additional projects of similar nature are currently in the planning stages. These young forest types, especially aspen, provide high quality nesting, feeding, and escape/hiding habitat for a wide variety of early successional wildlife, including American woodcock, ruffed grouse, wild turkey, and forest passerines, just to name a few.



We will also be checking our wildlife nesting boxes this winter. These boxes are scattered throughout the forest. Our goal is to have all nesting boxes inventoried and mapped this winter. This will allow us to better monitor and provide the proper maintenance.

We are always looking for volunteers, so if you have any interest in the local wildlife, please feel free to contact our wildlife biologist, Paul Widowski, at 607-546-4470 x312.

Just for Fun... Just for Kids...

Unscramble these Winter related words...

Winret _____
 wnanmSo _____
 cereDbem _____
 ubrerFya _____
 rsFot _____
 lGoves _____
 aotC _____
 rfcaS _____
 egnASnlwo _____
 gnkSii _____
 wbSlalson _____

oldC _____
 Fniegrez _____
 rynaauJ _____
 ecl _____
 Soweafnkl _____
 Hta _____
 Boost _____
 hSlevo _____
 idSlgnde _____
 sHoldiay _____



Scramble Words Answer Key:

Winter
 Snowman
 December
 February
 Frost
 Gloves
 Coat
 Scarf
 Snow Angel
 Skiing
 Snowballs
 Cold
 Freezing
 January
 Ice
 Snowflake
 Hat
 Boots
 Shovel
 Sledding
 Holidays

Timber

There are no active Timber Sales on the Forest at this time; however we do sell Firewood Permits.

Permits are available for purchase at our office; the 2 cord minimum still applies at a cost of \$20.00. You may purchase up to 10 cords per year, with permits expiring December 31 of each year.

Remember: Only dead and down timber may be removed and that you have a permit in possession and are properly recording each load of firewood.

To avoid the spread of non-native and invasive insects that might be living in your firewood, do not transport your firewood outside the local area. Schuyler County has been quarantined by the State of NY. Wood cut within Schuyler County cannot be transported out of the county.

Please avoid the seasonal roads during the winter/snow season, as they are part of the snowmobile trail system.

Trails

December 15 marked the opening of the snowmobile trails on the Forest - - once the snow arrives!

The Twin Lakes Snowmobile Club has been working on getting the trails signed and everything ready to go. Please use caution when out riding - and remember that many of the trails cross private land, so please be courteous - applies to National Forest land as well.



Camping

Blueberry Patch Campground has been closed for the season. Camping is available at the Backbone Horse Camp and Potomac Group Campground which is available by reservation and pre-paying through www.recreation.gov or calling 1-877-444-6777.

From the Ranger...

As 2011 winds down I find myself looking back at all of the great things that have been accomplished on the Forest, not only by the permanent staff but volunteers as well, to say that I am proud of everyone and their commitment to the Forest is an understatement!

Hopefully you'll be able to take a bit of time this winter and get out and enjoy your National Forest, it's a great place to sit back and enjoy! Happy Holiday - - Jodie

Upcoming 2012 Events...

May 12th - Annual Fishing Derby
June 16th - Strawberry Festival
July 25th - 28th - Hector Fair
August 25th - Trumansburg Parade
September 15th - Interlaken Old Home Days
October 6th - Annual Forest Field Days